

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1715

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SZ

SUBJECT: PRODUCER/CONSUMER RELATIONS: NEXT STEPS AND IEA
MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 92887

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY E/C COUNSELOR APRIL 23, AMBASSADOR JOLLES, DIRECTOR, SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE SAID PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION HE DREW FROM PREPCON BREAKUP WAS THAT INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES WERE NOT PREPARED WITH ADEQUATELY AGREED SUBSTANTIVE PLATFORM TO FACE INCREASINGLY UNITED OPEC/LDC FRONT. HE THOUGHT TIME WAS NOW REQUIRED TO LET DUST SETTLE AND TO TRY TO DEVELOP CLEAR OBJECTIVES AND COHESIVE POSITION AMONG INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES BEFORE RECONVENING PREPCON OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. JOLLES THOUGHT THAT WHILE IMPROVED COMMUNICATION WITH PRODUCERS DESIRABLE, CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE PER SE WAS NOT ENOUGH AND THUS HE FELT THAT FRENCH HAD MADE MISTAKE IN PUSHING FOR EARLY PREPCON BEFORE ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN MADE.

2. WITH THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND, JOLLES SAID HE VERY MUCH WONDERED WHETHER MAY 27 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
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SHOULD STILL BE HELD AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. FAIRLY

POSITIVE AND CLEAR STATEMENT WOULD BE EXPECTED FROM MINISTERIAL HELD IN PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT, AND AT THIS POINT HOLLES SAID HE COULD ENVISAGE ONLY TWO POSSIBILITIES, BOTH OF WHICH HE THOUGHT UNACCEPTABLE:

A) IEA MINISTERS COULD CONCLUDE ON BASIS PREPCON EXPERIENCE THAT PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE SHOULD BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES SHOULD PUSH AHEAD VIGOROUSLY WITH CONVERSATION, ALTERNATIVE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT, ETC. WHILE JOLLES FULLY APPROVES OF THIS IEA PROGRAM HE THINKS THAT DRAMATIZING ITS NEED IN TERMS OF PREPCON FAILURE WOULD BE VIEWED BY PRODUCERS AS ACT OF CONFRONTATION. JOLLES NOTED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS HAD TAKEN GREAT CARE AFTER PREPCON TO AVOID ACCUSATIONS AND THUS PRESENT ATMOSPHERE LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR VARIOUS FUTURE POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING RENEWING WORK OF CONFERENCE.

B) IEA MINISTERS COULD INSTEAD CONCLUDE THAT PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE WAS SO ESSENTIAL THAT IEA COUNTRIES WOULD BE PREPARED SEEK EARLY RECONVENING OF PREPCON, A POSITION THAT JOLLES THINKS AT THIS POINT WOULD CLEARLY IMPLY WILLINGNESS DISCUSS NON-ENERGY RELATED QUESTIONS AND THUS FULL VICTORY FOR ALGERIAN STRATEGY.

3. IF SOMETHING OTHER THAN THESE TWO EXTREME POSSIBLE OUTCOMES SHOULD RESULT FROM MAY 27 GOVERNING BOARD, JOLLES DOUBTS THAT MINISTERIAL ATTENDANCE WARRANTED. THUS, HE WOULD PREFER SEE POSTPONEMENT OF MINISTERIAL UNTIL CONSENSUS ON IEA POSITION TOWARD PRODUCER/CONSUMER RELATIONS MORE DEVELOPED AND CHANCES OF PURSUING DIALOGUE MORE FAVORABLE.

4. JOLLES NOTED THAT OECD MINISTERS ON MAY 28-29 COULD HANDLE ENERGY DISCUSSION NEEDED AT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL WITHOUT, IN HIS OPINION, DETRACTING FROM CLEAR PRIMARY IEA ROLE.

5. JOLLES ALSO CLEARLY CONCERNED AT AVOIDING CREATING OR WIDENING DIVERGENCIES AMONG INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES ON APPROACH TO ENERGY QUESTIONS AND PRODUCER RELATIONS, AND THUS IS CONCERNED ON HOW TO INCORPORATE FRENCH INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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PLANNING FOR NEXT EFFORT.

6. JOLLES INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR LANGUETIN WILL TRY OUT SOME OF FOREGOING AT APRIL 28-29 MEETING.
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